NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

Information Letter

FOR N. C. A. MEMBERS

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Status of Child Labor Amendment

At the adjournment of the Illinois legislature on June 20, the "child labor" amendment remained in the hands of Senate and House committees. This completes the record of the States until 1926 on the resolution submitted by Congress.

The proposed amendment has now been acted upon legislatively in 39 States, of which 34 have rejected and 4 have ratified. Four States,—New York, New Jersey, Rhode Island and Illinois,—sidestepped the issue, and one State, New Mexico, indicated ratification in one house. The five States yet to act are Alabama, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi and Virginia.

Eastern Class Rate Investigation

Hearings on the Eastern Class rates were begun at Washington on Monday, June 22. The chairman of the Association's Traffic Committee, Mr. E. S. DePass, was present at the sessions on Monday and Tuesday. He is preparing to submit evidence on behalf of the canning industry at one of the hearings to be held later in different parts of the country. The Interstate Commerce Commission has assigned hearings at various points up to July 23. The Chicago hearing will probably be held about September 25, and one at Boston about September 14, the exact dates to be announced later.

Membership List

Copies of the Membership List of the National Canners Association have been mailed to all members of the Association. If any member has failed to receive a copy, please notify the Washington office in order that another copy may be sent.

Marking on Canned Fruits and Vegetables for Italy

The Italian Ministry of Commerce has ruled that the markings required on canned fruits and vegetables after August 1, 1925, may appear on the printed paper label, which may be gummed on the can instead of being imprinted into, lithographed on, or soldered to, the can as is required on canned fish and meats.

Standard Fruit Cans for California

The California Canned Fruit Standardization Act, mentioned in previous issues of the Information Letter, establishes the following as standard sizes for cans for canned fruit of the varieties covered by the Act:

	Diameter Inches	*Height Inches*
Picnic	2 11-16	4
No. 1 flat	4	2 3-8
No. 1 tall	3	4 21-32
No. 2 tall	3 3-8	4 15-32
No. 2½ tall	4	4 11-16
No. 10 tall	6 1-8	6 15-16

Agricultural Research in Michigan

In last week's Information Letter mention was made of the raw products research work in progress in Ohio. The Director of the Association's Raw Products Research Bureau has also conferred with the committee representing the Michigan Canners Association, at the State Agricultural College at East Lansing.

At the Michigan conferences the recommendations of the Michigan Canners Association Committee made in February were reported on by the Department of Horticulture. The request of the canners that additional studies be made of improvement of raspberry growing has been complied with, and a new man has been employed for this work. Service to growers of canning crops with respect to insect problems has also been improved through the employment of an additional entomologist.

Valuable research is going forward on control of pear psylla, which seems to give promise of making it possible for an effective control measure to be announced at the conclusion of this season's experiments.

Tests of canning varieties of strawberries will be made in cooperation with interested canners. The new varieties developed by the U. S. Department of Agriculture are not yet available in sufficient quantity, but some varieties of considerable promise from other sections will be under observation and test during this season.

Radio Address Commends Vitamin Studies

The work on vitamins in canned foods conducted by the National Canners Association in collaboration with Columbia University received considerable attention in a radio address recently broadcast from Station WHA by an assistant professor of chemistry in the University of Wisconsin. In his talk on the "Newer Nutrition" the speaker reviewed the work done on various canned foods and concluded his address by quoting from the Association's bulletin on "Vitamins in Canned Foods".

Navy to Buy Canned Foods

The Navy is advertising for bids on canned fruits, vegetables and fish, for delivery to East and West Coast points, as follows:

Schedule 3982 opening July 14 for 1,155,000 # string beans
Schedule 3983 opening July 14 for 1,510,000 # corn
Schedule 3988 opening July 21 for 1,161,500 # peaches
Schedule 3999 opening July 14 for 170,000 # salmon
Schedule 4000 opening July 21 for 360,000 # prunes
Schedule 4010 opening July 28 for 660,000 # beets
Schedule 4015 opening July 28 for 513,000 # figs

Bidding forms and specifications may be obtained on application to the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Department, Washington, D. C.

Trend of Canned Food Exports

For the month of May exports of canned food showed the characteristic seasonal decline, and as compared with last May only evaporated milk shipments increased. For the eleven months ending with May, exports of canned fruits were 35,512,000 pounds greater in volume and $4,754,000 greater in value than during the corresponding period of the preceding year. On the other hand, canned vegetable exports decreased 2,345,000 pounds in quantity and $66,000 in value, while canned meats fell off 1,093,000 pounds and $314,000.

Survey of Retail Marketing of Meat

Results of studies of retail marketing of meats made by the Department of Agriculture beginning in 1920 and covering representative cities and rural districts in all parts of the country have been issued in the Agricultural Department Bulletin No. 1317, "Retail Marketing of Meats", by Herbert C. Marshall. This bulletin presents the details of the studies in meat marketing made previous to the current year when another study of methods,

practices, costs and consumer demand was begun. It presents data collected by personal canvass from more than 3,600 stores concerning merchandising methods, and expenses of operation and profits taken from the accounting records of 15 chain store systems and 285 individually operated stores. Copies of the bulletin may be obtained upon request to the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Pea Seed Conditions in Northwest

Reports from Dr. Shoemaker, who is investigating Alaska seed stocks in the Northwest, indicate that there are 10,000 to 12,000 acres of canners Alaskas in the territory tributary to Fairfield, Washington, with several thousand acres in addition of "commercial Alaskas" or "farmers' stocks". Weather conditions are reported as very fine for the pea crop up to June 20. The Palouse Alaskas are now in blossom so that it is obviously too early for any reliable estimates of final yields.

Death From Mercurial Poisoning Laid to Canned Foods

Several newspapers in the Middle West recently carried the story of the death of a child and attributed it to "ptomaine poisoning" from canned food.

As a result of the investigation made by this Association, the statement of two physicians was secured to the effect that the illness did not resemble food poisoning. In addition, the state chemist furnished a signed statement that he had analyzed the stomach and stomach contents of the deceased child and "found that her death was due to mercury poisoning". A coroner's inquest was held on suspicion that the step-mother poisoned the child, but the woman was exonerated.

The attention of the newspapers reporting the case is being called to the facts in the case with a view to securing a published correction and emphasizing the injustice done by publication of such items without proper investigation.

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